(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: H04B 7/26, H04Q 7/20

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/AU2004/000875

(22) International Filing Date: 30 June 2004 (30.06.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
2003904339   4 August 2003 (04.08.2003)   AU

(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: BARRETT COMMUNICATIONS PTY LTD [AU/AU]; 10 Port Kembla Drive, Bibra Lake, Western Australia 6163 (AU).
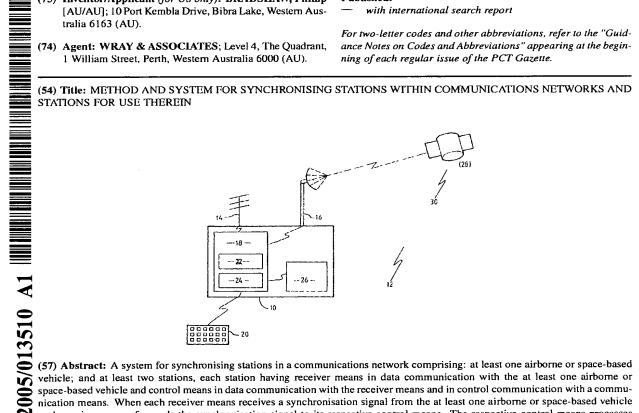
(72) Inventor; and
(75) Inventor/Applicant *(for US only)*: BRADSHAW, Phillip [AU/AU]; 10 Port Kembla Drive, Bibra Lake, Western Australia 6163 (AU).

(74) Agent: WRAY & ASSOCIATES; Level 4, The Quadrant, 1 William Street, Perth, Western Australia 6000 (AU).

(81) Designated States *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available)*: ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:
— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR SYNCHRONISING STATIONS WITHIN COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS AND STATIONS FOR USE THEREIN

(57) Abstract: A system for synchronising stations in a communications network comprising: at least one airborne or space-based vehicle; and at least two stations, each station having receiver means in data communication with the at least one airborne or space-based vehicle and control means in data communication with the receiver means and in control communication with a communication means. When each receiver means receives a synchronisation signal from the at least one airborne or space-based vehicle each receiver means forwards the synchronisation signal to its respective control means. The respective control means processes the synchronisation signal to determine the operational frequency required by its respective communication means to maintain or establish communication with the other station. The respective control means also operates to control its respective communication means to change to the determined operational frequency.